UMTA NEWSNOTES

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## UMTA/FHWA Action Helps WMATA Get Major Federal Aid

Secretary of Transportation Coleman, UMTA Administrator Patricelli, and FHWA Administrator Norbert Tiemann participated in a signing ceremony Friday, October 3 in which $286.5 million was made available to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for Metrorail rapid transit system construction. The grant was made possible by the withdrawal of designated portions of the I-70S and I-95 Interstate highways and substitution of the mass transit project under provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973.

The 1973 Highway Act permits designated segments in an urbanized area to be withdrawn from the Interstate system; general revenue funds, in an amount equal to the estimated cost of completing construction of the withdrawn segments, may be applied to implementation of substitute mass transit projects.

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*UMTA Administrator Patricelli, FHWA Administrator Tiemann, D.C. Mayor Walter Washington, and Joseph Alexander, Chairman of the WMATA Board of Directors, participate in ceremony turning over $286.5 million to WMATA for Metro construction.*

## Morgantown PRT Opens For Business

The UMTA-funded Morgantown (W. Va.) Personal Rapid Transit system opened for limited service to West Virginia University students on October 3, serving about 2,000 students and faculty members in the first day's 1½ hours of service. The hours of daily service will be increased gradually, with full service expected to be provided within a few months.

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## WMATA

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This grant was the largest single grant UMTA has ever made and represented UMTA's first significant involvement in Metro construction.

Also participating in the ceremony, held in the Metro Center station below 12th and G streets, N.W., were Mayor Walter Washington, representatives of the Washington City Council, WMATA General Manager Jackson Graham and members of the WMATA board, and several local congressmen.

Following the signing ceremony, participants rode a four-car Metro train to the Rhode Island station and back.

## Morgantown

(from p.1)

UMTA has provided a $3.3 million capital assistance grant for start-up and engineering activities for the system, including data collection, testing and evaluation; and the identification and recommendation of product improvements to the system and major subsystems. Also included in the grant are funds for the architectural and engineering design of the Phase II expansion of the system from its present 3-station configuration to a 5 station configuration. West Virginia University is contracting this work with the F.R. Harris Company.

The UMTA grant will assist the University in operating the system during its first year of public use. West Virginia University will in turn contract with the Boeing Aerospace Company for assistance and training during this period.

Student reaction has been very favorable to the system. Although no fare will be charged riders during the one-year demonstration period, students will gain access to the system by using magnetic fare cards which will be distributed to each student. The 2.2 mile system of double guideways will transport WVU students between the distant stretches of the WVU campus.

*Morgantown, W. Va., Personal Rapid Transit system.*